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## Tools of Empowerment

**Project Completion Date:** November 30th, 2023

**Old/New Initiative:** New Initiative

Please provide a brief biography of yourself and your team, including relevant background and experience (up to 150 words)

### **Bio**

I'm a 24-year-old Asian woman and a graduate of McCaskey High School, currently working at Lowes. I've always had a passion for DIY projects and fixing things around the house, so I volunteered at Habitat for Humanity in my free time. Growing up, my parents struggled with the cost of home repairs, which led me to realize how difficult it can be for some families to keep their homes in good condition.

In my spare time, I enjoy practicing yoga and reading. I'm excited to be a part of this grant application for a tool library, as I truly believe it can help families like my own access the tools they need to maintain and repair their homes without breaking the bank. It would be an honor to contribute to this project and help my community thrive.

Please describe your project and its objectives in detail (up to 250 words)

### **Project Description**

The proposed project is a community-led initiative to establish a neighborhood tool library offering classes for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) individuals. The project seeks a \$5,000 equity grant to help fund the launch and initial operation of the tool library.

The tool library will function as a lending hub for various tools that individuals in the community may need for home improvement projects or repairs. The library will have various tools, ranging from garden equipment to power tools to basic hand tools. Additionally, the library will provide access to experts who can assist users with the safe and effective use of the tools and instruction on the proper care and maintenance of the tools.

The tool library will prioritize BIPOC individuals and low-income households, providing them with tools and knowledge they may not otherwise have access to. The library will also provide

classes on topics such as home repair, DIY, and gardening, tailored to the specific needs of the BIPOC community. These classes will be led by local experts who deeply understand the unique challenges and needs of the community.

The project team will work closely with community organizations, such as neighborhood associations, community centers, and local churches, to promote the tool library and its classes. The project will also leverage social media and other digital tools to reach a broader audience and build a sense of community around the library.

The \$5,000 equity grant will be used to purchase initial inventory, establish the infrastructure of the tool library, and cover marketing expenses. As the tool library becomes self-sustaining, it will continue to serve the community, providing much-needed resources and knowledge to those who might otherwise be left behind.

How will this project positively impact your community, and what do you hope to achieve in the long term? (Up to 150 words)

### **Impact**

A Tool Library and workshop program in Lancaster, PA, can significantly impact the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community. By providing access to a wide range of tools and equipment, the program can help to level the playing field and empower BIPOC individuals to pursue DIY projects, home repairs, and other hands-on activities. In addition, the workshops can offer educational opportunities for BIPOC individuals to learn new skills, improve their knowledge of tools and techniques, and expand their confidence in tackling projects on their own. The program can also help to build a sense of community and provide a space for BIPOC individuals to connect with others who share their interests and passions. Ultimately, the Tool Library and workshop program has the potential to help break down barriers and support the growth and development of the BIPOC community in Lancaster, PA.

What are the specific metrics and goals you aim to achieve with this project?  
How will you measure success?

### **Metrics**

1. Number of BIPOC community members who access the tool library and workshops:
  - **Target:** At least 50 BIPOC community members access the tool library and workshops within the first six months.
2. Number of tool loans and workshop participants per month:
  - **Target:** At least 25 tool loans and 20 workshop participants per month within the first six months.
3. Feedback from BIPOC community members on the usefulness and impact of the tool library and workshops:

- **Target:** At least 80% of survey respondents report that the tool library and workshops have been helpful in learning new skills or completing projects.
- 4. Number of partnerships with local organizations, businesses, or community groups to support the tool library and workshops:
  - **Target:** Establish at least two partnerships with local organizations, businesses, or community groups within the first six months.

## **Goals**

1. Increase access to tools and resources for the BIPOC community, especially those who face financial barriers to owning their own tools.
2. Provide hands-on learning opportunities and skill-building workshops to empower community members to work on DIY projects, home repairs, and more.
3. Create a safe and welcoming space for BIPOC community members to learn, collaborate, and share knowledge.

Please provide a detailed budget for your project, including any other sources of funding and how the \$5,000 Equity Grant will be used.

## **Budget**

1. Tools and Equipment (Estimated cost: \$2,500)
  - Circular saw (\$150)
  - Jigsaw (\$150)
  - Drill and bits (\$150)
  - Sander (\$100)
  - Table saw (\$600)
  - Miter saw (\$400)
  - Hand saws (\$100)
  - Chisels and hand planes (\$200)
  - Clamps (\$150)
  - Workbenches (\$400)
  - Dust collector (\$500)
2. Materials (Estimated cost: \$1,500)
  - Lumber (\$800)
  - Nails, screws, and other fasteners (\$100)
  - Paint, stain, and other finishing supplies (\$200)
  - Safety equipment (gloves, goggles, ear protection, etc.) (\$200)
  - Other miscellaneous supplies (sandpaper, glue, etc.) (\$200)
3. Training and Education (Estimated cost: \$1,000)
  - Instructors for basic power tool skills training (estimated cost of \$50 per hour for 20 hours of training) (\$1,000)

*Total estimated cost: \$5,000*